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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0298  
INFO ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0004  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0018  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0003  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0005  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0005  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0009  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0009  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0005  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0011  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0006  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0005

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000031

NOFORN  
SIPDIS  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/01/22  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IZ](#) [CA](#)  
SUBJECT: CANADA PRESSES IRAQ ON BARRING CANDIDATES FROM ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 5980

CLASSIFIED BY: Scott Bellard, PolMinCouns, State, POL; REASON:  
1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C/NF) In response to reftel demarche by PolMinCouns on January 21, Director General for the Middle East and Maghreb John Holmes of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade confirmed that Canada was "way ahead of you" on pressing the Iraq government over the attempts to bar candidates from the upcoming Iraq Parliamentary elections. He clarified that he had called in the Iraq Ambassador in Ottawa on January 20 to protest the actions, which he described as "excessive." He also complained also about the unduly short period for the barred candidates to reclama. The Ambassador claimed that the process had indeed been transparent and that the bars had not been made en bloc but rather against specific individuals "with blood on their hands." He nonetheless promised to convey Canada's protests back to Baghdad.

¶2. (C/NF) DG Holmes added that a Canadian diplomat in Baghdad had also personally delivered a similar protest to the Iraqi Accountability and Justice Commission, and that the Canadian Ambassador in Amman (accredited to Baghdad) had spoken with senior Iraqi officials by telephone on this issue as well.

¶3. (C/NF) DG Holmes promised to share any further reactions with us, and expressed appreciation for the full court push the U.S. was making on this issue, including the decision to send Vice President Biden to Baghdad.  
JACOBSON